IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for charging intelligent network subscribers for message communication, comprising:

maintaining account data of a subscriber in the intelligent network,

forming a message communication charging file,

retrieving a message communication bill of the intelligent network subscriber, and

updating the account data of the subscriber with the message communication bill,

wherein the message communication includes one or more messages sent from or to a mobile station without setting up an end-to-end connection.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time, the method further comprising:

setting a limit value for credit data,

after an update, checking whether the account data is bigger than the limit value, and

if the account data is smaller than the limit value, blocking the use of chargeable message communication services from the subscriber.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message communication bill retrieval and account data update is performed at predefined intervals.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the account data of the subscriber is maintained in the intelligent network by maintaining a first set of account data on the subscriber's balance and a second set of account data on the buffer sums changing the balance, and the account data of the subscriber is updated in two stages.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein

in the first stage, the account data is updated with the message communication bill by adding it to the second set of account data, and

in the second stage, the account data is updated utilizing a charging mechanism of the intelligent network by replacing the first set of account data with the sum of the first set and the second set of account data and by initializing the second set of account data after that.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein each stage is executed at predefined intervals which need not be the same for both intervals.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message communication is a short message communication.

8.   (Previously Presented) A telecommunication system comprising

an intelligent network or a connection to an intelligent network,

a network configured to provide message communication, the message communication including one or more messages sent from or to a mobile station without setting up an end-to-end connection, and

a first system a message communication charging file,

a memory configured to maintain the account data of the intelligent network subscriber,

wherein the system also comprises

a second system configured to retrieve the message communication bill of the intelligent network subscriber from the charging file, and

an update system responsive to the second system configured to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber with the message communication bill.

9.   (Previously Presented) A telecommunication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the subscriber is a subscriber using prepaid connection time,

the update system is arranged to check after the update if the account data is bigger than the predefined limit value and, if the account data is not bigger than the limit value, to send information on this to the network transmitting message communication, and

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the network transmitting message communication is arranged, as a response to the information, to block the transmission of chargeable short messages from said subscriber.

10.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising at least one mediation device configured to block the transmission of chargeable message communication from said subscriber in response to the information.

11.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second system is adapted to retrieve credit data at predefined intervals.

12.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the second system is arranged to request the update system to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber, and

the update system comprises a charging interface which is arranged to update the account data of the intelligent network subscriber as a response to said request.

13.   (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the message communication is a short message communication.

14.   (New) A network element comprising a device configured to retrieve a message communication bill of an intelligent network subscriber from a message communication charging file, the message communication including one or more messages sent from or to a mobile station without setting up an end-to-end connection, the network element being configured to update account data of the intelligent network subscriber with the message communication bill.